



CERTIFICATION OF DEPOSIT AS FIRST CLASS MAIL

3 mon
EDT
10/1/03
10/1/03

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope with sufficient postage affixed addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 10, 2003.

Name: Esther Lily C. EsguerraSignature: Elayzen

Patent

Attorney's Docket No. 005950-742

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of JAMES, et al.) Group Art Unit: 3673
Application No.: 09/964,930) Examiner: KRECK, J.J.
Filed: September 26, 2001) Confirmation No. 2190
For: BENTONITE NODULES)

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following extension of time is requested to respond to the Office Action mailed on April 1, 2003:

FEE

three months to \$465.00 (2253) \$930.00 (1253)

The shortened statutory period has been reset by an Advisory Action dated

An extension fee in the amount of \$ 930.00 is enclosed.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

2003 SEP 10 2003 5W19551 00000064 09964930

OCT 17 2003

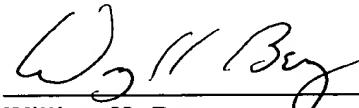
930.00 0P

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: September 10, 2003

By:



William H. Benz
Registration No. 25,952
Attorney for Applicants
Redwood Shores, CA Office
(650)622-2300

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404